



June 2014 Update

Higher Education Budget under Development

The Board held its initial discussion of the higher education budget request for fiscal year 2016 at its June meeting. System-wide requests being considered include funding for the [Complete College Idaho](#) strategies and initiatives to achieve the [Board's 60% goal](#); additional funding for the Opportunity Scholarship, a matching fund for industry and individual gifts for scholarships at the institutions, and deferred maintenance. The Board provided guidance on priority, category, and other considerations. The Business Affairs and Human Resources (BAHR) Committee of the Board will work with Board staff and the agencies/institutions to finalize the budget request to be approved at the August Board meeting. View the initial budget line items and supporting information [here](#).

State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Meet in Boise

Boise is the host city for [SHEEO's](#) Annual Meeting July 7th – 11th. SHEEO is the national association of state higher education leaders who serve statewide coordinating and governing boards and other state policy agencies for higher education. The organization serves as an advocate for state policy leadership, as a liaison between states and the federal government, as a vehicle for learning from and collaborating with peers, and as a source of information and analysis on educational and public policy issues. The meeting will draw more than 110 attendees, both SHEEO members and the leaders of other national and regional associations with whom SHEEO works. This year's [agenda](#) includes presentations and discussion of advancing student completion, college affordability, shared responsibility and accountability in higher education, and educator standards. While in Idaho's capitol city, attendees and their families will also have a chance to visit the Idaho Historical Society and raft the Payette River.

Articulation and Transfer Web Portal Now Available

To help ensure that college credits transfer easily among in-state institutions, the Board has partnered with the [Idaho Digital Learning Academy](#) (IDLA) to develop a tool to help students identify pathways to certificates and degrees and to understand articulation and transfer options across the public higher education institutions. Development of the [Web Portal](#) involved representatives from each of the eight public higher education institutions and focuses on two groups of students – college students and the high school students. The portal, www.idtransfer.org helps high school students understand how dual credit courses transfer to an Idaho college and helps college students see how credits at one institution will transfer to another. In addition, the portal contains planning information and links to helpful information on each of the institutions' websites. Additional work is underway on additional information regarding dual credit courses and a course matrix.

Strategic Plan Training for School Boards and Administrators

At its June meeting, the Board approved a [Temporary Administrative Rule](#) to provide school districts and charter schools with information on how to identify trainers to conduct professional development that would qualify the district to seek reimbursement for the training as stipulated by legislation passed this year. The new law directs each school district and public charter school to develop a strategic plan that focuses on improving student performance. For the 2014-2015 school year, strategic plans are required to be adopted by September 1, 2014. The legislature also appropriated up to \$2,000 for Districts that wish to

receive training from qualified individuals or organizations in the areas of strategic planning, governance, finance, ethics and administrator evaluations. The funds will be distributed to the districts and charter schools on a reimbursement basis after completion of the training if they hire a qualified trainer. A list of qualified trainers and the process for districts to request reimbursement will be posted on the Board's website by July 3rd.

Model Policy on Student Privacy and Data Protection Available

The [Data Management Council](#) submitted a [draft model policy](#) regarding student privacy and data protection for consideration at the June Board meeting. The Council was established by the Board to make recommendations on the oversight and development of Idaho's Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) and to oversee the creation, maintenance and usage of the system. Legislation passed this year requires each school district and public charter school to adopt and implement a policy that establishes procedures for collecting, using and sharing student information. Before final adoption of the policy, the Council is seeking input from school administrators, boards of trustees and other interested parties. Feedback can be sent to the Board's Director of Research, Carson Howell at carson.howell@osbe.idaho.gov.

Legislative Ideas Considered for 2015 Session

A slate of [legislative ideas](#) was considered by the Board at their June meeting. The slate was approved with the exception of Item 6 to amend the proprietary school statute and Item 9 to allow higher education institutions to opt out of the State's human resources services. Once approved by the Board and the Governor, Board staff will work with the institutions and other stakeholders to research issues and draft legislative language to be reviewed at the October Board meeting before being submitted to the Division of Financial Management.

Changes Made to Firearms on Campus Policy

At its June meeting, the Board approved an amendment to its policy on campus safety for the state's four-year institutions. The [updated policy](#) provides additional guidance based on the passage of legislation this year allowing for the concealed carry of firearms on public college and university campuses. The updated policy makes it clear that firearms are allowed on campus only as described in section 18-3309(2), Idaho Code, or as allowed by the institution as part of an event or program approved by the institution president. The institutions are in the process of updating their security plans, and the institution presidents will report on those plans at the August 13th-14th Board meeting in Pocatello.

Brookings Institution Report on Student Loans

A [June 2014 report](#) from the Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings details their findings of more than 20 years of data from the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) administered by the Federal Reserve Board, which tracks how the education debt levels and incomes of young households evolved between 1989 and 2010. The three main findings are: 1) roughly one-quarter of the increase in student debt since 1989 can be directly attributed to Americans obtaining more education, especially graduate degrees; 2) increases in the average lifetime incomes of college-educated Americans have more than kept pace with increases in debt loads; and 3) the monthly payment burden faced by student loan borrowers has stayed about the same or even lessened over the past two decades. The authors suggest that *"Future policymaking on student loans should be guided by accurate evidence on the health of the entire market, not atypical anecdotes."* They conclude *"that broad-based policies aimed at all student borrowers, either past or current, are likely to be unnecessary and wasteful given the lack of evidence of widespread financial hardship."*

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